

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed 08 September 2008, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 8-10 under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,776,640 (Nishioka), rejected Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,394,827 (Nogami) and objected to Claims 16 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-5 and 17-8 have been amended and Claims 3, 9 and 16 canceled.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has amended each of the pending Claims to remove the reference numbers from such Claims.

By the present amendment, Claim 1 now calls for an insulative housing, a card eject mechanism including a slider moveably mounted on the housing and engageable with a memory card for movement with the memory card into and out of the cavity between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position. A spring biasing member is called for to bias the slider in a direction from the inserted connection position toward the withdrawal position. A slide lock member is mounted on the connector to hold the slider in the inserted connection position and an ejection control member is mounted on the connector for releasing the slide lock member from engagement with the slider to cause the slider and the memory card to be ejected. In addition, the card eject mechanism, the slide lock member and the ejection control member form a push/push mechanism whereby a first push on the memory card moves the memory card and the slider to the inserted connection position and a second push on the ejection control mechanism releases the slide lock member from engagement with the slider and the spring biasing member causes the slider and memory card to be ejected.

Nishioka discloses a memory card connector that includes a separate engaging member 10 having a projection 11 that may be inserted into recess 17 of slider 14 in

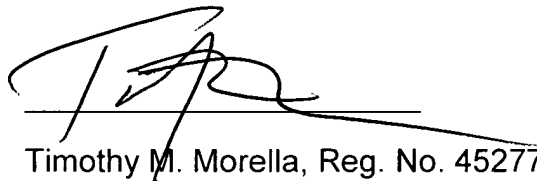
order to secure the slider and accompanying memory card in the locked position in order to prevent inadvertent or undesired ejection of the memory card. More specifically, the engaging member 10 and its projection 11 must be specifically inserted and removed from recess 17 of the slider by an action separate from the pushing motion to eject the memory card from the connector. See column 9, lines 22-27 and column 10, lines 33-36. This is contrary to amended Claim 1 in which pushing on the ejection control member releases the slide locked member from engagement with the slider and the spring biasing member causes the slider and the memory card to be ejected. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 as well as its dependent claims are patentable and requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejection.

With respect to Claim 12, the Examiner objected to Claims 16-7 stating that such Claims contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has inserted the subject matter of Claim 16 into Claim 12 and thus Applicant believes such Claim is now in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicant further amended other aspects of Claim 12 to further define the invention, but respectfully submits that such additional amendments do not negatively affect the patentability of amended Claim 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

As this Response is transmitted within Two (2) Months after the end of the shortened statutory time period for response, Applicant respectfully requests that a Two (2) Month Extension of Time be granted. Correspondingly, Applicant submits that the Office can deduct, from Deposit Account No. 23683, the appropriate Extension of Time fee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Morella', is written over a horizontal line.

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